

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 947

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION to commend Gloria J. Sweet-Love upon her election as an At-Large Member of the NAACP National Board of Directors.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gloria J. Sweet-Love is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sweet-Love was recently elected to a three-year term as an At-Large Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) National Board of Directors; the NAACP is a volunteer-based civil rights advocacy organization that has used its historic lawsuits and peaceful demonstrations to affect change in America; and

WHEREAS, elected by units from across the nation, Mrs. Sweet-Love was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Fred Banks of Jackson, Mississippi, on February 16, 2008 in New York City; and

WHEREAS, she has served with acumen and alacrity as President of the Tennessee State Conference NAACP since 1995; prior to her service in that role, she served as the West Tennessee Vice President for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as state conference president, Mrs. Sweet-Love established an annual NAACP Legislative Day on Capitol Hill, initiated the Annual Lawyers CLE and Human Rights Luncheon, established an Annual Education, Health, and Race Relations Summit, and reactivated nine branches, six college chapters, and three youth councils; in addition, she chartered one new branch, four youth councils, and four college

chapters and established the first State Conference Office in the history of the state conference;
and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sweet-Love is a subscribing Golden Heritage Member of the Haywood County Branch NAACP, serving as Secretary and Freedom Fund Chair; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-five years, she has rendered sterling service as a delegate to the NAACP National Convention; and

WHEREAS, a tireless advocate for those causes close to her heart, including health, education, civil rights, and social justice issues, Mrs. Sweet-Love has served as a stakeholder for the Intra Mural Grants Division of the American Cancer Society in Atlanta, Georgia, and as Legislative and Community Ambassador for state and federal issues with the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Sweet-Love traveled uncharted territory as the first African-American woman elected to the Haywood County School Board, which she served for eighteen years, sixteen of them as Vice Chair of the Board; in addition, she was the first African-American woman elected as Director of the South West District of the Tennessee School Board Association and, in 2005, she became the first African-American woman elected as President of the Tennessee School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sweet-Love has lent her innumerable talents as the Commissioner of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen, and as a two-term President of Haywood County Democratic Women; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting great leadership acumen, Ms. Sweet-Love champions a myriad of social justice issues, including the fight against environmental racism and the successful passage of legislation to allow ex-felons to vote; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Gloria Sweet-Love is the recipient of the NAACP Benjamin L. Hooks – Keeper of the Flame Labor Award and the coveted Kelly Miller Alexander Award for excellence in state conference programs; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Gloria Sweet-Love is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her husband, the Reverend Lotdell Love, Jr., and is the proud mother of four sons; and

WHEREAS, she dotes on her five grandchildren, who are the pride of her life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sweet-Love is an active and devout member of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Dancyville, which is served by the Reverend J.W. Shaw; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Sweet-Love's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Sweet-Love is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Gloria J. Sweet-Love upon her election as an At-Large Member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, commend her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and this country, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.